

Open back bezels, here an open back bezel is is two rings. One is the bezel use .7mm sheet at least, use .8mm square wire for the stone seat.

Measure stone with dividers to the curve of the bezel. Over estimate you can file down to correct height later.

Ok I don't know how strong you are if new to setting use fine silver, easier to push down. And you build up your muscles using this. If your are in jewellers condition sterling is better but more physical work.

The second ring the seat for the stone is made from .8mm square wire.

Make your bezel I measure round the stone with a piece of aluminium foil. Bend foil round mandril fit over stone and and mark the over lap with a sharpie. Mark on outside.

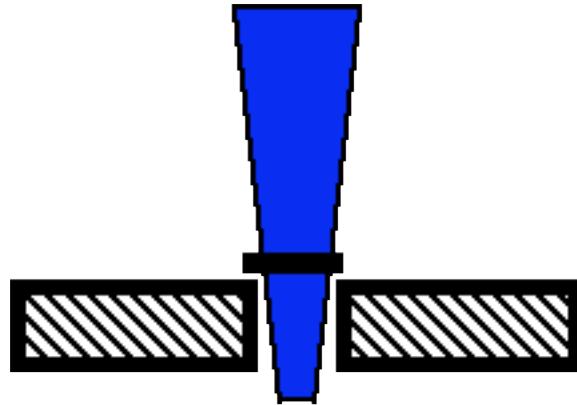
Flatten out foil and measure for length. Scribe height of stone onto sheet using dividers. Cut bezel strip. Takes some practise to get the right length or you need to tap up the bezel to fit.

Hard solder, pickle and clean up..

Measure square wire the same length as bezel. Bend round mandril note square wire wants to twist as you do, this flatten with parallel pliers if this happens.

You now fit the wire seat inside the bezel. Put mandril inside the wire and bezel push down the mandril to push the wire to the fit the bezel. You will have an overlap. Push wire out cut through overlap. Solder.

You now have 2 rings of metal, the bezel and the seat, check seat is flat. Fit the seat into the bezel. Push down on mandril again to get a really tight fit.



Here is a view of mandril (blue) in a hole in a bench pin (cross section of bench pin). The black band on the mandril is the bezel with the wire seat inside at bottom of bezel (can't see the seat). Tap mandril till seat is a tight fit.

Make sure seat is at the bottom of the bezel. Solder seat into bezel all hard solder to this point. Clean up. Now you have a bezel with a seat for the stone.

Solder, easy solder, on finding and polish.

Set stone, I first use a pusher then a rocker, ***and clean up with barrette files that are polished on the edges. Keep the files flat and carefully go round the cab. I use from 0 to 4 barrettes. Then I polish with a felt wheel in my flexi and use tripoli then hyfin. ONLY DO THIS WITH STONES HARDER THAN THE FILES!***

OK that's the basics. But it doesn't work for faceted stones. This is easy too, but I would not share this with too many people others will copy your designs.

Cut the bezel strip to the height of the stone. Follow the above steps till you have the 2 rings. Now here is the trick make extra seat rings but do not solder. File one end of the bezel to true it up and show which end is the top.

Put soldered ring into bezel at the top end. Push down mandril to tighten. Push an unsoldered ring into the bezel, this pushes the

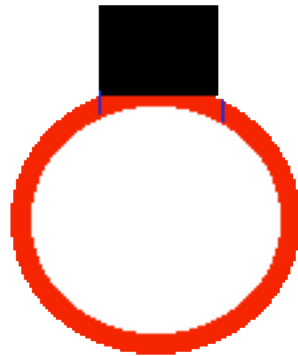
soldered ring down into the bezel. Takeout unsoldered ring put in stone, to measure for height.

Use more unsoldered rings to lower the soldered seat if not low enough for the stone height. So now you have the bezel with the soldered square wire seat down in it low enough to take the stone. Solder etc. Add jump ring or bail and set stone.

Now to go further making rings.

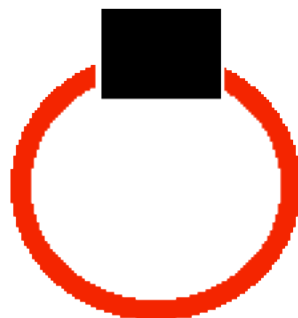
Hint buy a benchmate it will pay for itself in no time.

Make bezel with seat for stone and ring band soldered together. Put bezel onto ring over the rings solder line.



Scribe or use a fine sharpie onto ring each side on the bezel. Fine blue lines. Cut vertically through the marks on the ring file the cut sides of the ring vertical.

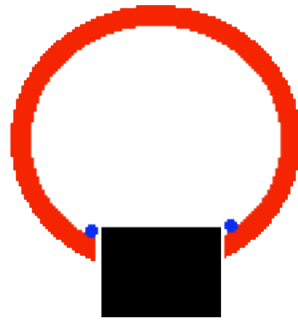
Now the fiddly bit. Put ring in ring clamp, this is where a benchmate is very good. File with half round files till the bezel fits perfectly into the gap in the ring.



Before soldering you may need to push the shank together a bit to make the fit really tight or it will slip when soldering. Allow a little bit

of the bezel to stick out below the ring shank. Line it all up. Check bezel is in the middle of the shank and of even height both sides.

Turn upside down on soldering block flux. Put a small piece of solder inside the ring where the bezel meets the shank. Solder, turn round and repeat. If you don't have a tight fit the ring shank will slide down the bezel.



blue bits are solder

Clean up and file bezel to match the ring shank. Use a ring file. If using a faceted stone you now have to cut seat with a bur to fit stone. Set stone. The faceted stone will be lower when the seat is cut so allow for this in the bezel height.

Now you have a classic ring. Use cabs and you will have a nice range of different rings that sell well.

For expensive stones make a tube of metal for the inner seat. This is really fiddly but you can get a high polish on the inside.

Make well make money  
Richard